

natural
areas

LOUISVILLE METRO PARKS

Spring/Summer 2015



Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY
40118

502/368-5404

www.jeffersonforest.com

www.metro-parks.org

forest@louisvilleky.gov

parks@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Monday-Saturday
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Sunday/Holidays
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center
is your destination
for maps, gift items,
program reservations,
camping reservations,
permits and
Forest information.

Directions

From I-65 south, take the
Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265)
west and exit at New Cut Road.
Turn left, go about one mile,
and turn right onto
Mitchell Hill Road.
Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

The mission of
Louisville Metro Parks
is to create
a City of Parks
and enhance the
quality of life for
citizens of Louisville Metro
by maintaining and acquiring
attractive, vibrant parks
and offering safe, diverse
recreation programs, and
protecting these lands
and resources for
future generations.

Jefferson Memorial Forest's Expanded Recycling

It's about time!

With many apologies to the volunteers, staff, and customers who have long requested that we take this step, we are pleased to announce that we are initiating an expanded recycling program in selected areas of the Forest. Given the availability of single stream recycling in the community we are now able to offer this as a service to our visitors. Beginning in May, we will have receptacles for recyclable materials at the Welcome Center, the Environmental Education Center, the Horine Conference Center, as well as at the campground. If this program is successful, we will look forward to expanding it to include receptacles for recycling in all of our major recreation areas and ultimately within other natural areas we manage.

Campground users will see the biggest change. We are excited to put our words into action and hope that campers will be eager to show off their "Leave No Trace" skills by carrying out what they carry in. We are giving plenty of lead time so that our guests may be prepared for the change. Similar to what is found in primitive campgrounds around the country, we will be removing individual trash barrels from each site and developing a single location at the beginning of

our campground entrance with dumpsters into which users may deposit their separated trash and recyclables. We are already putting notices in our camping packets announcing the pending change.

In addition, in order to cut down on resource usage, we will also be transitioning this newsletter to a predominantly electronic version. This will not only save trees, but will also allow us to conserve budget resources for other purposes, including staffing of seasonal employees.

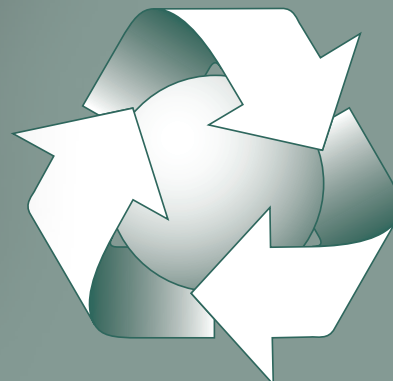
As we transition, we hope that you will share your feedback by sending any comments to forest@louisvilleky.gov.

Bennett Knox, Parks Administrator

We're Going Green!

If you are currently receiving a mailed paper edition of this newsletter we encourage you to visit memorialforest.com to begin receiving this newsletter via e-mail or to read this and past edition online.

Beginning in the fall of 2015, we will no longer mail a paper copy and will only print a limited number for display in the Welcome Center.



**PRINTED ON
RECYCLED PAPER**



NOTES FROM WILDERNESS LOUISVILLE, INC.

Wilderness Louisville, Inc. – Going Natural to Support the Forest!

Wilderness Louisville, Inc. is the recently-established 501c3 non-profit supporting initiatives of Jefferson Memorial Forest and Metro Parks' Natural Areas Division. This

winter and spring the Board is developing its strategic plan geared toward building the group's capacity. Simultaneously the Board continues to raise funds to support JMF/Natural Areas programmatic initiatives in the community.



Toyota Renews Support for Louisville ECHO

We are pleased to announce that Wilderness Louisville, Inc. has received \$7,500 in funding from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky (TMMK) to support the environmental education component of the



Forest's Louisville is Engaging Children Outdoors initiative. This funding will be used to pay for program expenses and allow the Forest to continue providing multiple outdoor experiences for five JCPS elementary schools (Cane Run, Chenoweth, Coral Ridge, Portland, and Young). This gift adds to \$7,000 in funding recently awarded to Metro Parks from of Metro Council for which we hope you'll join us in thanking members representing Districts 3 (Woolridge), 5 (Hamilton), 9, and 13 (Welch).

Program Shelter Campaign

In fall of 2014, the board raised \$8,000 to match \$8,000 in Metro Parks' funding to support construction of two new program shelters to replace the dilapidated structure shown in the photo below. We are thrilled to announce that LG&E recently awarded Wilderness Louisville a \$5,000 contribution to further the initiative.

This fundraising effort will continue in the spring as the group will be hosting the 2nd annual Wilderness Louisville, Inc. Silent Auction at Forest Fest on May 16th. More details will be posted, so be sure to check the Forest's Facebook page and website, as well as wildernesslouisville.org for more information. Replacing the Forest's existing program shelter is a critical need as the



a PPL company

during inclement weather and will help build the capacity of the Forest to expand the number of children served each year. We hope you'll consider supporting this effort. Construction is now planned for the summer of 2015.

current facility is very much past its prime.

The new shelters will allow the Forest to provide cover for students

Wilderness Louisville Receives Commitment of \$45,393 From the Natural Resource Conservation Service



Recently, Wilderness Louisville entered into a park adoption agreement with Metro Parks that allows the group to take on a role in stewardship within the Jefferson Memorial Forest and the natural areas managed by Forest staff. The arrangement also allowed Wilderness Louisville to apply to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service for \$45,393 in funding under their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Over the next three years these funds will be utilized to support a wide range of restoration activities. For more information on the activities planned, please refer to the Land Management Notes on page 6.





VOLUNTEER NEWS

Heartfelt Appreciation

The Honor Society students from Walden High School spent an early November morning planting trees and removing invasive wintercreeper vines at Caperton Swamp. This group of 55 hard workers donated 165 man hours, equivalent to a 40-hour work week for four full-time employees. See our Land Management notes for details of their day with us and the impact of their gift.

In 2014, we enjoyed meeting over 570 one-day volunteers like those from Walden High School. Whether they came as a group for a special service day, or one at a time to assist with our land management and trail maintenance project days, single-day volunteers performed 1,892 hours in calendar year 2014.

Our wonderful long-term volunteers – 99 of them in all – donated 3,748 hours of service in 2014, equivalent to two full-time employees for the whole year! Now that's something to crow about. Among these dedicated individuals, we are pleased to say that ten of them donated over 100 hours of their precious time during the year, with several others coming very close to that mark as well. Is there any wonder we love these folks?

So what did these volunteers do during all that time? So glad you asked! Over 1,008 hours were dedicated to leading our outstanding



environmental education programs with the public and school groups. The 152 hours of outdoor recreation programming included canoeing, archery and the Alpine Tower, a 52-foot climbing challenge. A whopping 1,509 hours were given to land and trail management endeavors, assuring the health of our ecosystem and happy trails for all our guests. Training and professional development to keep skills sharp and up to date required 437 hours. The remaining 520 hours were general service, which includes office assistance and miscellaneous help with one-time needs. An additional 56 hours were spent patrolling and removing trash on the Louisville Loop.

To everyone who made 2014 a fantastic year, and everyone who will join us in this new year, we thank you. Thank you for your service, your dedication, and your smiles. You make our jobs engaging and enjoyable.



Volunteer Educators Needed!

If you love the outdoors and sharing knowledge with others, come join our amazing team of volunteer educators! We're looking for energetic people with weekday availability to assist with our environmental and recreational programs.

Our volunteers work with the public and school groups to bring exciting outdoor experiences to thousands of people each year. Training is cafeteria-style, so you choose the areas where you'd like to work. Whether it's belaying at our 52-foot Alpine Tower climbing challenge, being a facilitator for team building activities or leading youngsters on a Woods Walk and taking note of what you see and here, we'll provide you with all the tools and skills you need to be a success. All programs are developed, organized and led by staff. Volunteers assist staff by either being a helper (such as belaying) or by working with a small subset of a larger group in pre-defined activities.

All education volunteers must attend orientation and a best practices training for group management, then they may choose the area(s) in which to specialize. Environmental choices include Absolutely Animals, Kentucky's First People, Survival Skills, Pond Study and our award-winning ECHO program. ECHO, or Engaging Children Outdoors, works with area fourth grade students and provides the opportunity for the volunteers to develop strong ties to the students by working with them throughout the school year.

Outdoor recreation specialties include Alpine Tower, archery, canoeing, orienteering, and our most requested program, team building.

Interested? We'd love to talk to you! Contact Sherry Wright, Volunteer Coordinator, at 502/380-1753 or Sherry.Wright@louisvilleky.gov for more information.

Does your group have what it takes to make a difference in a Natural Areas park? Give us a call! We would love to coordinate a volunteer event especially for you. We have projects suitable for single-day service projects as well as Eagle Scouts. If you need a project, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sherry Wright at 502/380-1753 or at sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov.



PUBLIC PROGRAM CALENDAR: APRIL TO AUGUST

The Forest offers programs for all ages. For more information visit our website at memorialforest.com or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help make reservations, give directions to the program location, or provide a complete schedule of programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel, change or postpone program dates and venues, due to insufficient registration, conditions or weather. In such cases rain checks will be provided.

April

ARCHERY

Saturday April 11, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon

Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow within minutes. This program is for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Pre-Registration required. Fee: \$15/person

FOX (FAMILIES OUTSIDE X-PLORING)

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
SPRING JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST

Wildflowers are blooming and frogs and toads are singing. We'll explore the spring madness and discover what lives in Shannon's Pond. As we hike along the trail and fields prepare to find little treasures of color and new life in a puddle. Test your boat building skills using natural materials. Bring water bottles and a snack, and dress for the weather. We will be outside the whole time. Warning: You will get dirt on your shirt! Meet in the Horine Main Parking Lot. Pre-Registration required. Fee: \$8/ Family

FREE GUIDED HIKE – SCOTT'S GAP TRAIL

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am

Hike the lovely Scott's Gap area in search of wildflowers. Meet in the Scott's Gap section of the Forest to hike this 3.3 mile strenuous trail.

May

MOTHER'S DAY WOODLAND TEA PARTY

Saturday, May 9, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Spend Mother's Day enjoying tea and treats in the beautiful setting of the Forest. A

variety of woodland themed baked goods and teas will be served. Enjoy a short wildflower hike, crafts, and music. Reservations must be made by Monday, May 4. Fee: \$20/person

10TH ANNUAL FOREST FEST – BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, May 16, 10:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Come out for a great day filled with Bluegrass Music, exquisite wood crafts and fun activities for the entire family. Event is FREE – Parking - \$10.00

NIGHT CLIMBING

Friday, May 22, 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Challenge yourself on our 52 foot climbing tower...in the dark! Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques and gain self-esteem, confidence and problem-solving skills while tackling this "high-altitude" obstacle course at night! This program is for ages 10 and up. (A parent or legal guardian must accompany any participant under the age of 18.) Please wear tennis shoes and long pants or shorts (with inseam greater than 5 inches.) Bring your headlamp! Program will meet in the Horine Section of Jefferson Memorial Forest. All participants must pre-register and pre-pay before day of course through the Welcome Center (no registrations day of course.) Pre-registration required. Fee: \$15/person

OUTDOOR SKILLS – ORIENTEERING I

Saturday, May 23, 9:00 AM -NOON

Map and landscape reading are skills every outdoor person needs to possess. This program equips participants with the skills necessary to read and interpret topographic maps and locate destinations. This in-field set of exercises is truly a hands-on learning experience. Ages 12 and up. Program meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee \$15

Per Person/ Per Class- Pre-Registration is required

FREE GUIDED HIKE – SILTSTONE/ SPUR/PURPLE HEART

Saturday, May 30, 9:00 am

Meet us at the Welcome Center to take the Siltstone Trail to the spur, then over to the Purple Heart Loop and back to the Welcome Center. 3.0 miles, moderate to strenuous.

June

FLAT WATER CANOEING CLASS

Saturday, June 6, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Meet at Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center, transportation to Mitchell Hill Lake provided. Course will cover basics of boat control and paddle strokes for flat water, and how to prepare for a safe day of canoeing. Participants must be age 12 and up, able to swim confidently, and comfortably sit in and paddle a canoe in flat water. (Parent or legal guardian must accompany any participant under age 18.) All equipment is provided. Bring snacks and water bottle. Dress to get wet and wear shoes that will stay on your feet (no flip-flops or slip-on sandals!) All participants must pre-register and pre-pay before day of course through the Welcome Center (no registrations day of course.) 10 participants max. Canoe programs are subject to change of date or venue due to water conditions and weather. Preregistration required by calling 502/368-5404 Fee: \$20/ person

THE GREAT AMERICAN CAMPOUT -

Saturday, June 27, 5 pm through Sunday, June 28, 10 am

Since 2005, thousands of people from across the nation have come together the fourth Saturday of June to participate in



the Great American Backyard Campout in support of Great Outdoors Month. The Campout raises awareness of the benefits of camping as a way to connect people with nature and reinforces National Wildlife Federation's Be Out There campaign. This event is an easy way for friends, families and children to connect with nature, sleep under the stars and create memories of outdoor experiences.

FEE: \$25.00 per family up to 4; \$5.00 per additional family member; \$15.00 per tent rental. Pre-Registration required; call 502.368.5404.

FREE GUIDED HIKE – ORANGE TRAIL

Saturday, June 27, 9:00 am

Volunteer Naturalists will lead this 2.5 mile, moderate to strenuous hike on the smaller loop trail in the Horine section, followed by a brief tour of the environmental education area. Meet in the Horine Reservation parking lot.

July

WEST LOUISVILLE APPRECIATION DAYS

July 25-26

Experience a multitude of adventure right at your local park as Jefferson Memorial Forest teams up once again with West Louisville Appreciation Days to bring a host of unique activities and fun-for-all abilities to Shawnee Park on Saturday and Sunday July 25th and 26th. Last year was a huge success with opportunities for families to participate in archery, canoeing and fishing on the Ohio River, a bicycle pump track, and climb a mobile rock wall. This year looks to be just as exciting. Check back with the Forest's website or Facebook page in late spring for more details on this FREE event.

FREE GUIDED HIKE – TWISTING BENDS LOOP

Saturday, July 25, 9:00 am

Check out Waverly Park in the company of our Volunteer Naturalists! This 2.5 mile hike is easy to moderate and meets in the last parking lot (below the dam) in Waverly Park.

District 13 Councilwoman Vicki Welch presents...



FOREST FEST 2015

FREE ADMISSION!

FOOD TRUCKS
CRAFT VENDORS
KID'S ACTIVITIES
WORKSHOPS
TENT CAMPING

MAY 16
10:30 AM - 7:00 PM

PARKING \$11



RUMPKE MOUNTAIN BOYS
HELEN HIGHWATER STRING BAND
MAIDEN RADIO MOSY MOUNTAIN STRING BAND
NELLIE PEARL STORLFRONT CONGREGATION



METRO PARKS
AND RECREATION



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORING PARTNERS:
Ford Trucks, Kwik-Mart, David's, Home Depot,
Walgreens, Dunkin', Dunkin' Donuts, Dunkin' Donuts, Dunkin' Donuts

August

ARCHERY

Saturday, August 1, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow within minutes. This program is for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Pre-Registration required. Fee: \$15/person

FOX (FAMILIES OUTSIDE X-PLORING)

Saturday, August 15, 9:00am to 11:30 AM

SUMMER - JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST

Mud pies and forts! Who's ready to play

with some mud, sticks, leaves and seeds? Each family will create their own fort which will be tested with "rain". Let's see who stays the driest. Then, make your own mud creation. Bring water bottles, a snack and dress for the weather. We will be outside the whole time. Warning: You will get dirt on your shirt! Meets in the Horine Main Parking Lot. Pre-Registration required. Fee: \$8/Family

FREE GUIDED HIKE – CORAL RIDGE & HOLSCLAW HILL LOOPS

Saturday, August 29, 8:00 am

Enjoy a summer hike in the company of our trained volunteers. Meet in the Paul Yost Recreation Area an hour early to beat the summer heat. 7.4 miles, easy to moderate.



LAND MANAGEMENT NOTES



Walden School students help to plant trees at Caperton Swamp

Restoration and Cleanup of Newly Acquired Properties

Initial work will begin this spring to address site cleanup and invasive removal on 48 acres of recently acquired land off of Keys Ferry Road. Most of this land was obtained with Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Funding in 2014 and is the planned hub for environmental education activity as spelled out in the 2009 Master Plan for

Jefferson Memorial Forest. With a generous grant from Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District we plan to begin the work of removing an abundance of old



debris from an earlier pig farm operation. Additionally, the Forest's friends group, Wilderness Louisville, Inc, has been approved to receive a \$45,393 EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) Wildlife grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This grant will provide funding for invasive plant removal on 42 acres, restoration tree planting on ten acres, and installation of native grasses and forbs on two acres of the site. This grant will also be used for restoration activities at other natural areas locations, including renovation of an ephemeral pond and prescribed burn implementation on the native prairie in the Scott's Gap Section of the Forest as well as restoration tree planting on twelve acres at Caperton Swamp.

Implementation of these plans will produce a diverse and healthy wildlife habitat and will support our environmental education focus for these sites. We will be very busy over the next three years on these restoration activities and will definitely need many willing volunteers to help us on the project!

Bryan Lewis, Land Manager

Caperton Swamp Woodland Restoration Planting

In November, over 100 volunteers participated in woodland restoration efforts at Caperton Swamp. Both Walden School and Coral Ridge Elementary helped us plant 700 native Kentucky trees. This is the second year of restoration planting at this location and we are looking forward to finishing three more years of restoration planting to complete the entire property.

We sincerely thank Louisville Gas and Electric for providing funding to purchase this season's trees through its Plant for the Planet grant program. Plant for the Planet encourages us to use Right Tree, Right Place practices when planting trees to ensure their long term survival and conservation goals. Caperton Swamp is well known for its wildlife viewing opportunities, so plants chosen lean heavily toward those which provide wildlife benefit by producing abundant acorns and berries. Restoration planting at Caperton and our other Natural Area properties is essential in reestablishing healthy native habitats and preventing re-infestation with invasive plants.



Rebecca Minnick assists Coral Ridge Elementary students in tree planting at Caperton Swamp



FOREST SUMMER CAMPS

Summer Adventures

Each provides children an immersion experience in the natural world. They take on the roles of naturalist, scientist, adventurer, and explorer as they discover new things about the forest, and the creatures that inhabit it. By combining educational activities and learning experiences with traditional summer camp fun, your child has an exciting adventure they will remember for a lifetime!

Camp activities include nature study, crafts, science experiments, games, journaling, outdoor recreation, hikes, and animal contact with the Forest's education animals. Each session runs for one week.

Each day begins promptly at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Drop-off and pick-up will be at the Environmental Education Center in the Horine Reservation of Jefferson Memorial Forest. Each of these camps are for ages 7 to 12. Special camps for teens ages 13 to 15, and youngsters ages 5 to 6 are also offered.

Shuttle Service Available

Shuttle service will be offered from George Rogers Clark Park at Thruston Ave. and Poplar Level Rd. Parents may purchase a pass for \$30 (per child, per session) that will provide transportation for the week. The service is only for children ages 6 to 15. Make reservations early.

Adventure Camp

Ages 7 to 12

Is your child an adventurer, ready to explore what's around the next bend in the trail? If so, then Adventure Camp is just what your child needs! Campers explore the trails deep in the forest, climb our alpine tower, and learn orienteering, archery, and survival skills.

Dates: June 22-26 and July 20-24

Water Wonders

Ages 7 to 12

Discover the exciting world within a pond, lake, stream and river. Campers explore a lake by canoe, play in a flowing creek,

and hike through a forest to a winding stream. Personal Floatation Devices are provided to each camper and trained staff accompany the campers in a 1:3 ratio for our canoe excursions. Parents are welcome to join their child for canoeing field trips.

Dates: July 6-10 and July 27-31



Animal Adventures

Ages 7 to 12

Do your children love animals? Campers explore and search for signs of animals in a variety of habitats and meet our forest education animals up close. What animals live in Kentucky? Find out and discover more about our native animals in the Forest.

Dates: June 15-19

Nature Camp at Locust Grove

Drop-off at Locust Grove: 9 a.m. Pick-up: 4 p.m.

Ages 7 to 12

Travel back in time more than 200 years to discover nature and people through Locust Grove. Track native wild animals, experience Native American hunting



and survival techniques, and discover life in the 18th century for the first European settlers and Native Americans. This hands-on nature camp will take kids on an adventure back in time! PLEASE NOTE: Drop off and pick up will take place at Locust Grove. There will be no shuttle service for this session.

Dates: Aug. 3-6

ECO Extreme

Ages 13 to 15

Prepare yourself for adventure on a whole new level! This is THE camp that sets itself apart from other camps! From canoeing on the Ohio River to camping out under the stars on an overnight trip, you're sure to get your dose of extreme adventure at ECO X Camp, all while learning fly fishing, backcountry cooking, canoeing techniques, Leave No Trace skills, and more.

Dates: July 13-17

Fairies, Trolls and Gnomes

Ages 6 to 9

Enter a magical, hidden world in the Forest, where creatures of the imagination live. Campers use their imagination and natural materials to create an enchanted land where

anything is possible, while learning about the plants and animals of the forest. Campers will put on a play for family and enjoy a woodland fairy tea party.

Dates: July 13-17

Forest Explorers

Ages 5 and 6

Search for animal tracks, discover the fascinating world of insects, hike the trails and play in Kentucky's first certified Nature Explore Classroom! Through stories, crafts and hands-on activities your child will make discoveries about the variety of habitats and the animals living in JMF. PLEASE NOTE: No shuttle service is offered for this camp.

Dates: June 29-July 2

Registration information on back of newsletter.

Jefferson Memorial Forest
11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY 40118

tel • 502/368-5404
email • forest@louisvilleky.gov
web • memorialforest.com

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Louisville, KY
Permit #1151



METRO PARKS
AND RECREATION

Greg Fischer, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council

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Forest Summer Camp Information

CAMP TITLE.....	AGES.....	PRICE/SESSION.....	DATES
Animal Adventures	7-12	\$135	June 15-19
Adventure Camp	7-12	\$135	June 22-26
Forest Explorers	5-6.....	\$115	June 29-July 2
Water Wonders.....	7-12	\$135	July 6-10
ECO Extreme	13-15	\$195	July 13-17
Fairies, Trolls & Gnomes	6-9.....	\$135	July 13-17
Adventure Camp	7-12	\$135	July 20-24
Water Wonders.....	7-12	\$135	July 27-31
Nature at Locust Grove	7-12	\$195	Aug 3-7
Metal water bottle with carabiner.....		\$7.50	
Metal water bottle with sign up for more than 1 camp		FREE	

Payment options and refunds

Price is per child, per week. Price includes all camp supplies and field trip admissions. Registration forms can be obtained online at memorialforest.com or at the Forest's Welcome Center during business hours. Mail forms with check or credit card information to Jefferson Memorial Forest, PO Box 467, Fairdale, KY 40118. Reservations cannot be made over the phone. Make checks payable to Jefferson Memorial Forest. Include the session dates your child is attending on the check. Refunds, less a \$25 processing fee, are given only if a cancellation is made in writing at least two weeks prior to the first day of camp. If a camp is filled or cancelled, a full refund will be made to you. All camps are subject to maximum and minimum enrollment requirements.



Metro Parks
www.metro-parks.org

Forest/Parks Natural Areas Staff

Bonnie Knox
Park Administrator
Rebecca Minkin
Public Education Manager
Brian Lewis
Land Manager
Sherry Mink
Guest Services Supervisor
Larry Hilton
Maintenance/Traffic Supervisor
Andrea Clark
Guest Services Specialist
Wendy Daudler
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